Chara COMICS

ななひかり

9784199604140

ISBN978-4-19-960414-0
C9979 ¥533E (0)

雑誌 52814—37

1929979005337

徳間書店
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Has the news of Mizuho Kazumitsu's hidden sons been leaked to the media?

To hide from reporters, Hikaru takes refuge at attorney Shimogura's secondary apartment with his half-brothers Yuuma, a fellow high school student, and Shinobu, a cross-dressing child actor.

However, in the midst of this upheaval yet another half-brother makes an appearance: Watari, a cool and handsome chef, who returns to Japan after working for years in France.

Is Hikaru in danger of forming a close emotional attachment to this older sibling who's inherited his father's stunning good looks?!

CHARA COMICS

3

高口里純

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NANAHIKARI VOL.3

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Shinobu
So how could he be
the secret lovechild of deceased actor Mizuho Kazumitsu?
As a cross dressing mainstream theater actor who's recently hit the big time...
Okino Shinobu-kun has been basking in the limelight of public acclaim
RYUUSEI THEATER COMPANY
Asakusa Performance
Yet rumors have suddenly surfaced suggesting this shocking news may in fact be true...
In his lifetime Mizuho-san was renowned for his numerous affairs with the opposite sex

CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ARE YOU HOME?
MAMA!
For some time, there has been gossip about the existence of several illegitimate children raised in secret by his former lovers
Here s Shinobu kun now
Aha!
Excuse me Shinobu-kun!
Ironically enough the existence of one of them has just been made public after his death

It's Shinobu!
!
Could you give us a statement?
Shinobu-kun!
Dear Hikaru,
I've gone to stay with my parents, so don't worry about me.
Mama
Shinobu-kun!
EH?
YEAH, I HAVE
She's unwell so she's resting in bed
Have you seen the news on TV, Hikaru?
She's unwell in bed?!
HELLO? IS THAT YOU, GRANDMA?
IS MAMA THERE?

ME...?
I suppose the media will be hounding her soon enough so we're letting her stay with us for a while
So what are you going to do?
She's in shock right now My word how many times must they rehash the tawdry subject of Mizuho's love life?
THEN WHAT'S MAMA GOING TO DO?
So she didn't know about Shinobu after all
ding dong
ding dong
What should I do?!

It's the media!
LET MAMA KNOW...
...I'LL MANAGE FINE NO MATTER WHAT!
I WONDER IF I COULD ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS!
ding dong
HIKARU-KUN?
NANAMURA HIKARU-KUN!
ARE YOU AT HOME?
I don't believe this.
How could she know about us and our past?
She must have taken the time to dig up information about the existence of any children by Mizuho's ex-wife
Ugh!
I went to great lengths to get this scoop before any other news outlet!
But it's proven to be my downfall!

I swear
_the way I overreacted to the gay rumors was so pathetic!
MARRYING ONE WAS MIZUHO'S WAY OF SWEEPING THE SUSPICIONS OF HOMOSEXUALITY UNDER THE CARPET
Shortly after the Chief Editor told me.
It all began when I learned about One Takako the promising pianist
If Nanamura Hikaru is indeed Mizuho's son, perhaps I should've interviewed him sooner!
But_
_time is of the essence
It's not over yet! I'll have to keep tabs on Kunikake Yuuma!

If they know about me...

...then I doubt I'll be able to keep everyone else hidden for long

There's Yuuma...

...and all my other half brothers.

VROOM
ヴォォ
SLAM
GET IN.
THE MEDIA WORK FAST, DON'T THEY?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MAMA'S GONE TO STAY WITH MY GRAND-PARENTS.
HAS SHE?
THAT MAY BE FOR THE BEST
I WAS ALSO ON MY WAY THERE...
YOU CAN'T JOIN HER.
EH? WHY NOT?

EH?
ME? MEDIA FODDER?
BUT I'M JUST A NORMAL TEENAGER!
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ME?
Heh...
Was that... a mocking laugh?
.....
YOUR MOTHER WILL MANAGE FINE WHEN THEY TRACK HER DOWN. EVEN THE REPORTERS WILL HAVE SYMPATHY FOR HER
HOWEVER, YOU ARE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATTER
BECAUSE YOU'RE IDEAL MEDIA FODDER

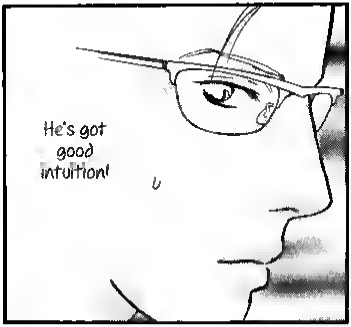
THEN AGAIN, EVEN A MURDERER CAN APPEAR TO BE A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN BY DAY, HMM?
HIKARU-KUN, YOU APPEAR NORMAL BY DAY, THAT'S ALL
MY POINT IS THAT BASKING IN THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT MAY PROVE TO BE A TURNING POINT IN YOUR YOUNG LIFE

THAT'S WHY I SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT
I'LL NEVER GET CAUGHT UP IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT
BASKING IN THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT?
.....
EH?
VROOM
ブオオ
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SHIMOGURA-SAN?
STILL NAIVE AS EVER, I SEE

WHERE ARE WE?
BY MYSELF?
I HAVE A PRIVATE APARTMENT HERE I USE IT AS A SECOND HOME
I'D LIKE YOU TO REMAIN HIDDEN HERE FOR THE TIME BEING. PLEASE

RELAX YOU'LL BE FINE ON YOUR OWN
BESIDES, THIS PLACE ISN'T THAT SPACIOUS, AND I—
FOR NOW YES
GULP
DID YOU LIVE HERE WITH YOUR FORMER BOYFRIEND?

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
.....
Where is this talk heading?


He's got good intuition!

CAN I STILL GO TO SCHOOL?
THE MEDIA FRENZY SHOULD DIE DOWN IN A COUPLE OF DAYS...
I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SCHOOL...
...TO EXPLAIN YOUR ABSENCE FROM CLASS...
I'LL BE LONELY ON MY OWN...
ARE YOU TRYING TO TEMPT ME?

SHIMOGURA-SAN. WE'RE ALONE IN YOUR APARTMENT
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD BY BRINGING ME HERE
ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T SEEM FAZED BY WHAT'S HAPPENED I'M WARY OF YOUR MOTIVES
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
BECAUSE I SHARED THIS APARTMENT WITH MY EX-LOVER?
.....
I knew it
I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE
REPORTERS ARE KEEPING AN EYE ON ME TOO

THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO—

MM...
AAH...
AAH
IN WHAT WAY?
YOU'RE HEARTLESS

LIVING TOGETHER WITH ME...
...DAY AFTER DAY.
DO YOU WANT TO BE MY NEW LOVER, HIKARU-KUN?
ACTING THE WAY YOU DID... PRETENDING NOT TO GET MY HINT...
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH ME?
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
S-SEX...

AH!
MY PHONE!
OH!
IS THAT YOU, YUUMA?
EH?
A REPORTER FROM A WEEKLY GOSSIP MAGAZINE?
SHE WAS WAITING OUTSIDE MY HOUSE WHEN CHIKA RANG ME
KUNIKAKE
THE MEDIA ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT SHINOBU
AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ON TO ME TOO.

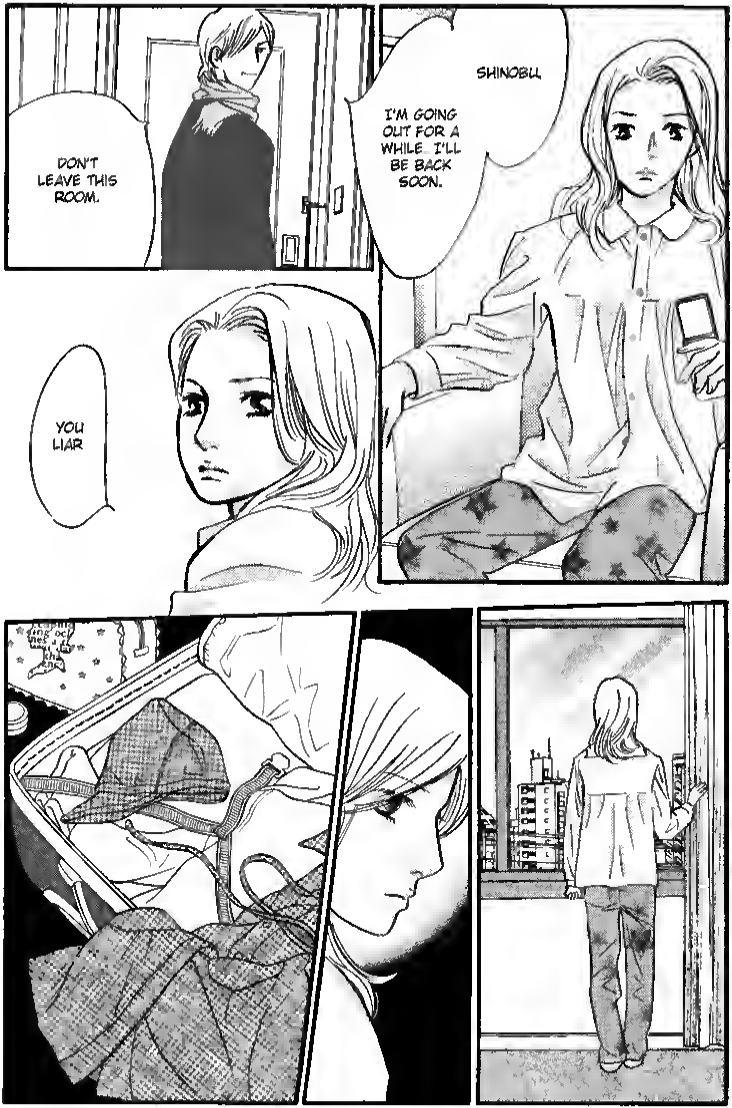
IT SOUNDS LIKE KUNIKAKE-KUN WILL HAVE TO COME HERE AS WELL.
REALLY?
WHICH REMINDS ME...
THIS REPORTER ALSO KNOWS YOUR NAME.
SNAP
FIRST OF ALL, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OVER HERE. I'M AT...
YUJIMA.
OTHERWISE YOU'LL BE LONELY ON YOUR OWN, HIKARU-KUN.

SHIMOGURA-SAN...
DON'T WORRY
I'LL CONTACT HIM MYSELF IN DUE COURSE
DO YOU KNOW...
...THAT I'M SERIOUSLY INTERESTED...
...IN YOU?

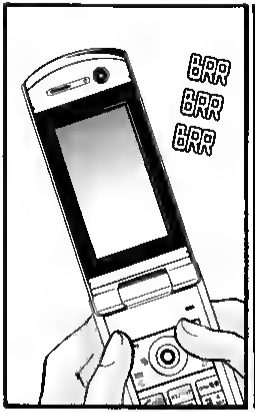
I...
I
I HAD NO IDEA.
I TOOK AN INTEREST IN YOU AT OUR VERY FIRST MEETING.
BUT I SUPPOSE IT WAS BLATANTLY OBVIOUS, WASN'T IT?

YOU'RE A LOT LIKE YOUR FATHER...
HEH HEH
But I don't think I'm like him at all...
That's a scary thought!
.....

So he's...
interested in me too
NOW WHAT?
A NEW MESSAGE?
BRR BRR BRR
You knew this all along, didn't you, Hikaru?
It's Shinobu. I'm at a hotel right now.
Did you see the news? Are they telling the truth? I asked my dad, but he won't tell me anything.


DON'T LEAVE THIS ROOM.
SHINOBU
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE. I'LL BE BACK SOON.
YOU LIAR

Peek
キョロ
creak
click
Peek
キョロ
So my real father...
...is this Mizuho Kazumitsu guy
My plans for revenge are ruined aren't they?
What's the best way to reply to Shinobu's message?
I'll settle my grudge another way!
No never!



To make matters worse, he thought of his real father as an enemy

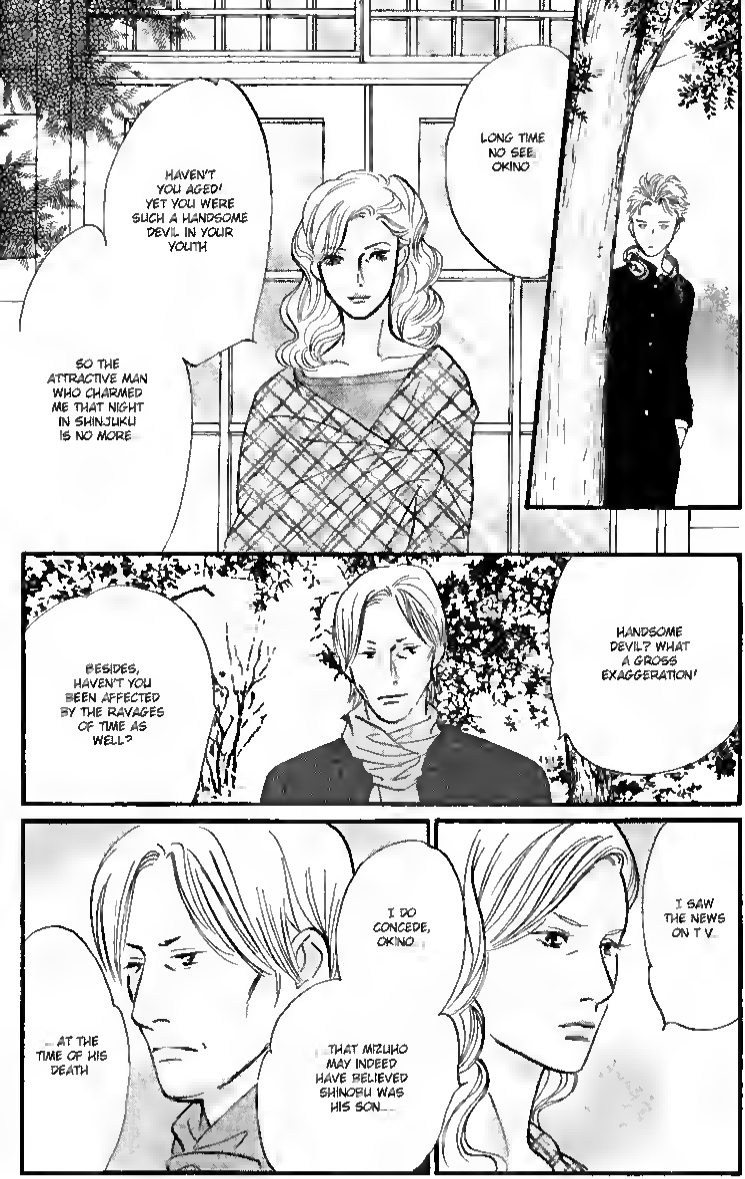
I'm sure that finding out the truth so abruptly

...would be upsetting for Shinobu

NANAMURA

Flashback
NO, OUR RELATIONSHIP IS MUCH MORE INTIMATE THAN THAT...
A FRIEND?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT DAY IT IS?
NANA-MURA!
DO YOU KNOW HIKARU-KUN? ARE YOU A FRIEND OF HIS?
HEY YOU!
Actually, where are you all from?
SO WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HIKARU?
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, ASHINUMA!
I'M HIKARU-CHAN'S GIRLFRIEND, REMEMBER! STOP MAKING UP LIES ABOUT HIM!
OWW!
DID YOU TWO KNOW THAT HIKARU-KUN IS A SON OF THE FAMOUS ACTOR MIZUHO KAZUMITSU?

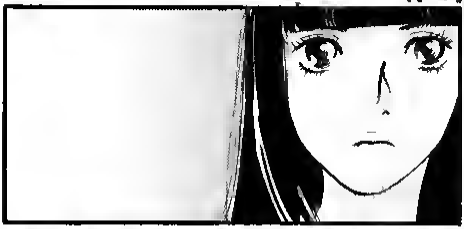
YOU'RE KIDDING.
YOU MEAN NANAMURA?

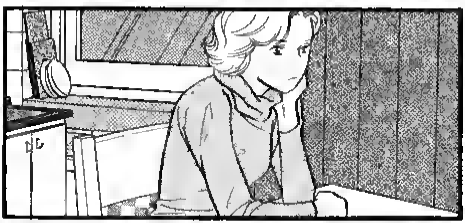

LONG TIME NO SEE, OKINO
HAVEN'T YOU AGED! YET YOU WERE SUCH A HANDSOME DEVIL IN YOUR YOUTH
SO THE ATTRACTIVE MAN WHO CHARMED ME THAT NIGHT IN SHINJUKU IS NO MORE...
HANDSOME DEVIL? WHAT A GROSS EXAGGERATION!
BESIDES, HAVEN'T YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY THE RAVAGES OF TIME AS WELL?
I SAW THE NEWS ON T.V...
I DO CONCEDE, OKINO...
...THAT MIZUHO MAY INDEED HAVE BELIEVED SHINOBU WAS HIS SON...
...AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH

I'VE MET YOUR SON, YOU KNOW.
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU. I RECOGNIZED HIM AT ONCE
I WAS CLEARLY INFORMED BY HIS MOTHER...
...SHINOBU IS MIZUHO'S SON.
YES, I ADMIT IT.
I WAS THE ONE WHO LEAKED THE NEWS ABOUT SHINOBU TO THE MEDIA

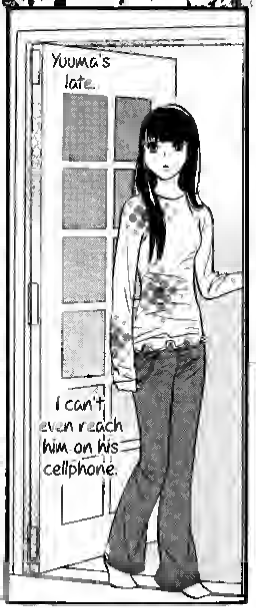
MIZUHO WAS CONVINCED SHINOBU WAS HIS SON AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH
BUT I SUSPECT THAT YOU'RE HIS REAL FATHER, NOT MIZUHO!
SO I BELIEVE I AM CARRYING OUT HIS WISHES...
...BY ALLOWING SHINOBU TO HAVE HIS TIME IN THE LIMELIGHT AHEAD OF ANYONE ELSE
DO YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF MIZUHO'S OTHER SONS?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
I KNEW IT!
AIRING DIRTY LAUNDRY IN PUBLIC LIKE THIS WILL HAVE NASTY REPERCUSSIONS FOR YOUR BOY TOO!





MAM...?


Yuuma's late.
I can't even reach him on his cellphone.

OH MY!
IS IT TIME TO EAT YET?
IS THAT THE TIME?
Tell me Mama
Who is Yuuma's real father?
Is Yuuma the son of Mizuho Kazumitsu?
If he is does that mean I can marry Yuuma...
Which is it Mama?
..or not?

I'm certain that Mizuho Kazumirai is your father
Shimogura Law Office
Clack

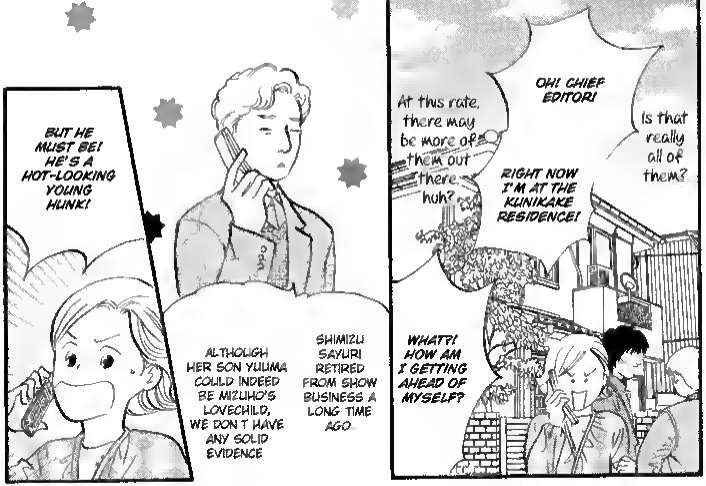
WELCOME BACK
ARE YOU WORKING LATE?
YEAH, I AM
YOU HAVE A VISITOR
HE CAME BY THIS AFTERNOON ASKING FOR YOU. HE'D BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD TAKE THE TIME TO SEE HIM
THANKS. SEE YOU TOMORROW.
A visitor?
Him?

AHA!
ARE YOU ATTORNEY SHIMOGURA?
YES I'VE ONLY JUST BEEN SUMMONED BACK TO JAPAN...
ARE YOU SUETSUGU-SAN?
I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU. WEREN'T YOU LIVING ABROAD?
...BY MY MOTHER.

I GUESS I'VE ARRIVED AT A BAD TIME, HUH?
NO, NOT AT ALL!
YOU MUST BE VERY BUSY.
I RUSHED BACK TO JAPAN ON ACCOUNT OF MY MOTHER'S ILLNESS SHE'S SERIOUSLY ILL AND UNLIKELY TO RECOVER.
—YET SHE STILL INSISTS THAT I LIVE WHEREVER I WANT DESPITE HER POOR HEALTH.
YOU KNOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE MIZUHO KAZUMITSU PASSED AWAY.
WHAT'S MORE I HAD NO IDEA THAT HIS OTHER CHILDREN HAVE NOW COME TO LIGHT.

ななひかり
NANAHIKARI
contact.10

One of Mizuho Kazumitsu's sons has been outed by the media!
Nevertheless..
it's still great news, even if I didn't track Okino Shinobu down myself!
Speaking of Okino Shinobu
he's a theater actor who specializes in female roles right?
But I have the inside scoop on the son of his ex-wife, Nanamura Hikaru
plus his illegitimate son with an actress he dated just prior to his marriage
Kunikake Yuuma


BUT HE MUST BE! HE'S A HOT-LOOKING YOUNG HUNK!
ALTHOUGH HER SON YUUMA COULD INDEED BE MIZUHO'S LOVECHILD, WE DON'T HAVE ANY SOLID EVIDENCE
SHIMIZU SAYURI RETIRED FROM SHOW BUSINESS A LONG TIME AGO.
At this rate, there may be more of them out there huh?
OH! CHIEF EDITOR!
Is that really all of them?
RIGHT NOW I'M AT THE KUNIKAKE RESIDENCE!
WHAT?! HOW AM I GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF?

YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
First get your hands on the evidence and then you can get your scoop Best of luck. Kama chan
.....

ding dong

DID YOU LOSE THE REPORTERS ON YOUR WAY HERE?
YEAH SANKYUU FOR YOUR TEXT MESSAGE
kachik
ガチャ
SO YOU MADE IT HERE ALL RIGHT?
MORE OR LESS.
IS THIS YOUR HOME?
NOPE
ACTUALLY, MY ATTORNEY LIVES HERE.
Did he say it was his second home?
YOUR ATTORNEY?
HMPH.
WERE YOU WITH YOUR FATHER BEFORE YOU CAME HERE, SHINOBU?

I CAME HERE FROM THE HOTEL ROOM ON MY OWN
MY FATHER DOESN'T KNOW WHERE I AM
EH?
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE HERE WITHOUT TELLING HIM?
IT'S ALL RIGHT I SWEAR
IT'S MORE IMPORTANT FOR ME TO KNOW THE TRUTH BEHIND THE NEWS
OH...
UH... WELL...
YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, DON'T YOU?
THEY MUST BE LYING ABOUT MIZUHO KAZUMITSU BEING MY FATHER, RIGHT?

I BET YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS TO FIGURE IT OUT.
I MEAN, YOU PROBABLY SUSPECTED IT ALL ALONG, HUH?
.....
DID YOU WORK OUT WHY YUUMA AND I WANTED TO SEE YOU SHINOBU?
WELL...
IT APPEARS THAT YOU AND I...
AND YUUMA SHARE THE SAME FATHER

SHINOBU?
SO THAT'S WHY WE'RE AT AN ATTORNEY'S PLACE
I CAN'T GO BACK HOME AFTER ALL
I CAN'T GO HOME EITHER... I WAS TOLD THAT REPORTERS WILL BE STALKING MY MAMA...
YUUMA!
ピンポーン
ding dong
YEAH?
SHINOBU JUST ARRIVED
THE T.V. NETWORKS HAVE BEEN GOING CRAZY OVER HIM THE WHOLE DAY

I SEE
IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. I'M WORN OUT.
YEAH, ME TOO.
I EXPLAINED THINGS TO SHINOBU.
clack
kachik

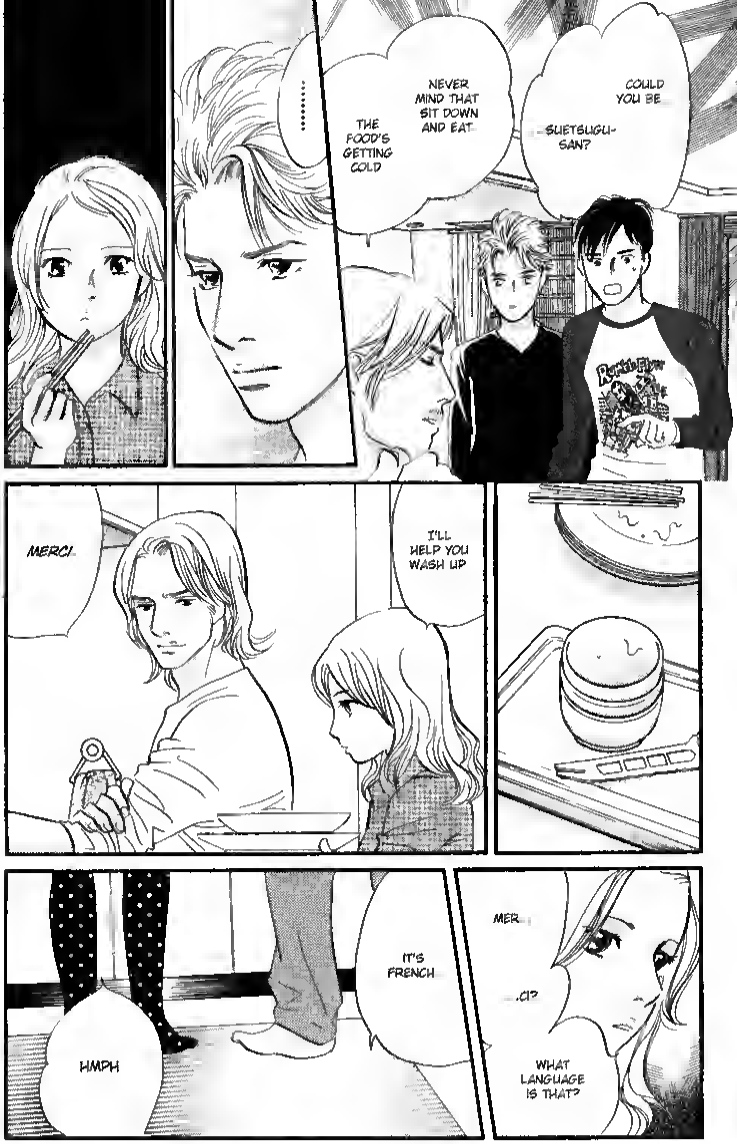
creak
WELL, WELL! LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE

IS IT MORNING?
Yawwn
MM...

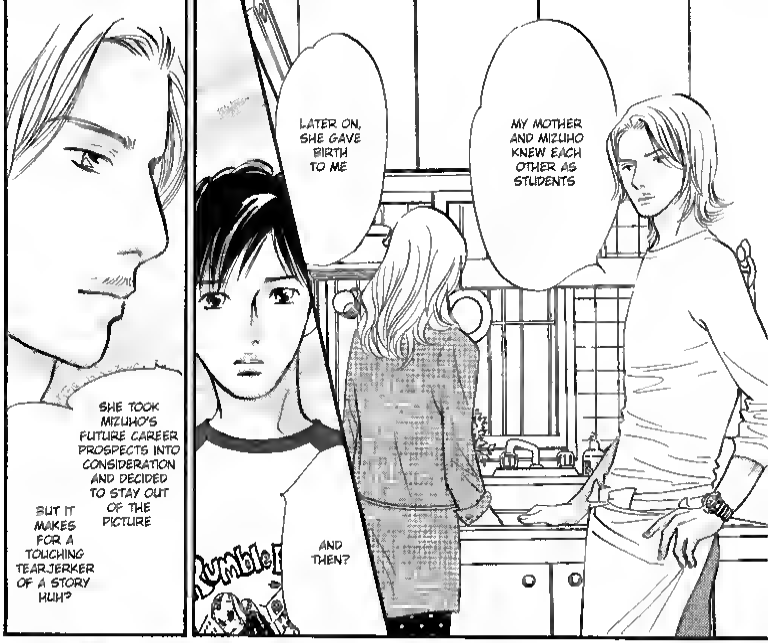
Da..
Dad?!
!
RumbleFlyer
OH, ARE YOU AWAKE?
GO WAKE UP THE OTHER TWO
He can't be!
WHO...
..ARE YOU?

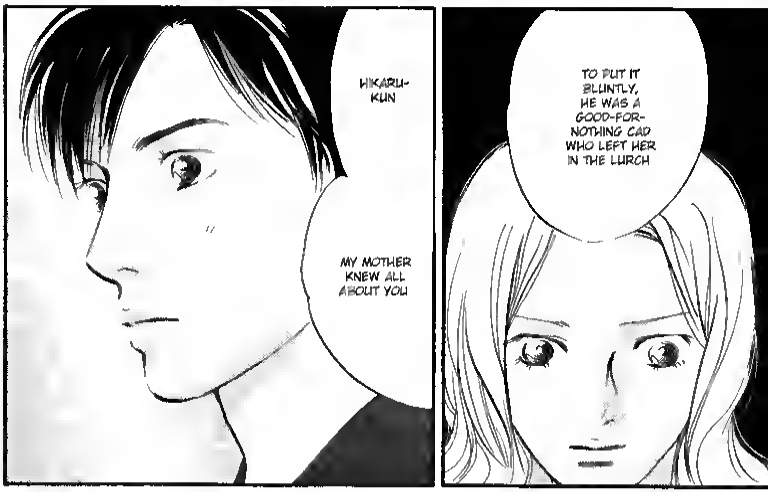
WHO'S THIS GUY?
SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD...
WHO KNOWS
SHINOBU!
IT LOOKS YUMMY!
REST EASY. I DIDN'T SPIKE THE FOOD WITH POISON
NEVER MIND JUST EAT
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF THE SAYING, "AN ARMY MARCHES ON ITS STOMACH"?

HE MUST BE THE HIRED COOK, RIGHT?
LOOK, I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THIS GUY IS!
WHO DO YOU THINK HE IS, YUUMA?
NO, NOT HIM!
WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU?
HE MENTIONED AN ARMY... SOMETHING ABOUT AN ARMY?
A cook?!
I remember him! His photo was in one of the files!
Suspect Giant data (page 27)
That's him!
He works as a chef in a Parisian hotel!
Aha!


COULD YOU BE SUETSUGU-SAN?
NEVER MIND THAT SIT DOWN AND EAT
THE FOOD'S GETTING COLD
.....
I'LL HELP YOU WASH UP
MERCI.
MER
.CI?
WHAT LANGUAGE IS THAT?
IT'S FRENCH
HMPH

ARE YOU ALSO A SON OF MIZUHO KAZUMITSU?
.....
I'M SUETSUGU WATARI
I WAS LIVING IN PARIS JUST BEFORE I FLEW BACK
ALTHOUGH I RETURNED PRIMARILY BECAUSE--
I HEARD MY MOTHER'S HEALTH HAD DETERIORATED,
PERHAPS HEARING ABOUT THE DEATH OF ACTOR MIZUHO KAZUMITSU WAS ANOTHER FACTOR IN MY DECISION TO COME BACK


MY MOTHER AND MIZUHO KNEW EACH OTHER AS STUDENTS
LATER ON, SHE GAVE BIRTH TO ME
AND THEN?
SHE TOOK MIZUHO'S FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS INTO CONSIDERATION AND DECIDED TO STAY OUT OF THE PICTURE
BUT IT MAKES FOR A TOUCHING TEARJERKER OF A STORY HUH?

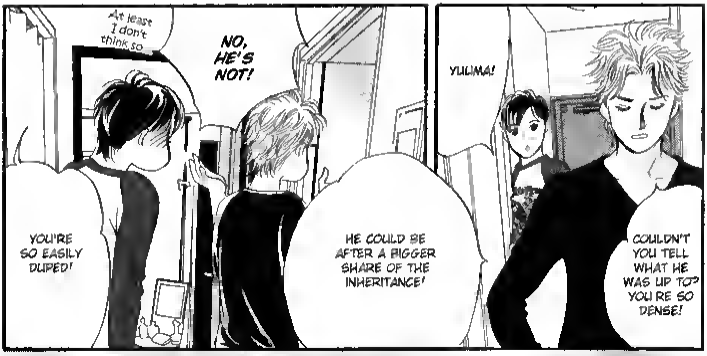

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, HE WAS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING CAD WHO LEFT HER IN THE LURCH
HIKARU-KUN
MY MOTHER KNEW ALL ABOUT YOU

SHE TOLD ME ALL THE DETAILS...
...ABOUT MIZUHO'S WEDDING AND THE BIRTH OF YOU, HIS SON.
HOWEVER, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR TWO COMPANIONS BEFORE
SO THAT MAKES YOU OUR OLDER HALF-BROTHER, RIGHT?
ENOUGH
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
I'M OUT OF HERE!

SHINOBU!
HAA..
HAA..
HE'S HYPERVEN-TILATING!
GRAB ANY BAG! A SHOPPING BAG WILL DO!
SHINOBU!
WHERE'S A PAPER-BAG?
Being bombarded with so much information at once...
...must've given him a huge shock!
Shinobu was totally unprepared for any of this!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU YOU KNOW
BUT
I'M SORRY I UPSET HIM
MY MOTHER WOULD TALK OF NOTHING BUT YOU
SHE'D SAY TO ME "THAT'S MIZUHO'S BOY! SEE THAT'S MIZUHO'S BOY!"
YOU SEE, MY MOTHER NEVER STOPPED LOVING MIZUHO KAZUMITSU.

I...
I'VE GOT MY MAMA
HAS IT BEEN TOUGH FOR YOU BEING ON YOUR OWN SO FAR?
KEEP IN TOUCH SEND ME A MESSAGE ANYTIME
SURE
EH?
I WONDER WHY HE TOOK SUCH A LIKING TO YOU
CLACK
I BET HE GOT A KICK OUT OF PLAYING THE CARING BIG BROTHER


At least I don't think so.
NO, HE'S NOT!
YULIMA!
YOU'RE SO EASILY DUPED!
HE COULD BE AFTER A BIGGER SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE!
COULDN'T YOU TELL WHAT HE WAS UP TO? YOU RE SO DENSE!

SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU
I WAS TOLD YOU'D BE HERE.
SUETSUGU-SAN!

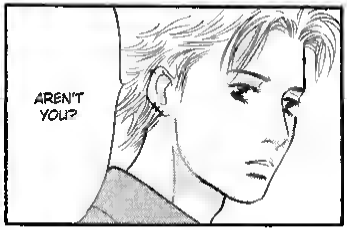
I WENT TO YOUR APARTMENT TO MEET HIKARU-KUN.
OH RIGHT...
THERE WERE TWO OTHER BOYS WITH HIM.
I SEE
WAS SHINOBU-KUN ONE OF THEM?
YES, HE WAS
WHEN I LOSE MY MOTHER...
...I'LL BE LEFT WITHOUT ANY FAMILY OF MY OWN.
YET ALTHOUGH I STILL RESENT MY CURRENT LOT IN LIFE...
RIGHT NOW I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SEE THEM
SO WHAT ELSE CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP ME FIND WORK IN A SUITABLE RESTAURANT...
DIDN'T YOU WORK FOR A THREE-STAR HOTEL IN PARIS?
I DID, BUT MOST CITY RESTAURANTS AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT REALLY...
DID YOU...
...INFORM HIKARU-KUN OF YOUR INTENTION TO RENOUNCE YOUR RIGHTS TO A SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE?
OH, THAT
I'LL TELL HIM NEXT TIME
.....

BUT YOU'RE NOT STRESSED ABOUT BEING SEEN ARE YOU, YUUMA?
IS IT A GOOD IDEA TO LEAVE SHINORU ALONE IN THE APARTMENT?
7 ELEVEN
ME?
I STAY COOL BECAUSE I KNOW I CAN HANDLE IT. I'M SURE OF MYSELF.
HE'LL BE FINE! IT'S TOO RISKY FOR HIM TO GO OUTDOORS NOW, RIGHT?

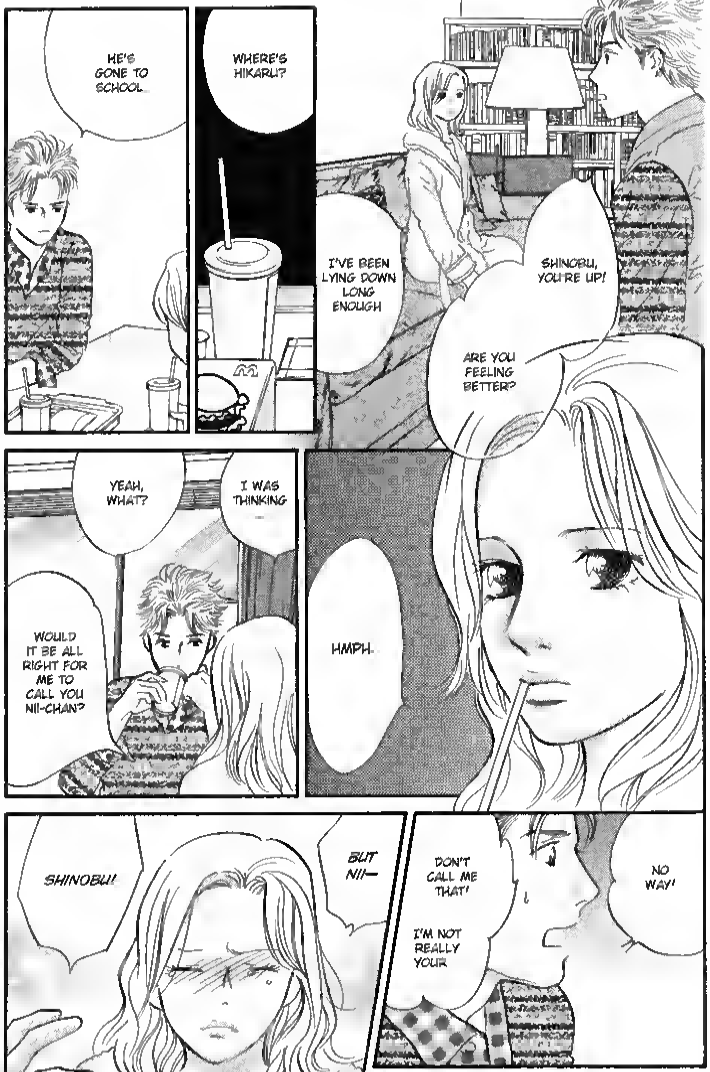
A TEXT MESSAGE...
ARGH!
I HAD IT ON SILENT MODE THE WHOLE TIME!
.....

I'M NEVER SURE OF MYSELF...


AREN'T YOU?

NAZUNA
NAZUNA
NAZUNA
NAZUNA
NAZUNA
NAZUNA
Sheesh. Nazuna!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I GOT A MESSAGE FROM SHINOBU'S FATHER
IGNORE IT.
WHAT DOES HE WANT?
HE'S ASKING IF SHINOBU IS WITH ME OR NOT.
BUT WHY?
YOU SHOULD IGNORE ALL MESSAGES FROM YOUR MOTHER AND SHINOBU'S FATHER!
EH?
W-WHY SHOULD I?

?
FINE THEN! JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT!
CLACK
HM?
Come to the club room at school tonight at 8pm.
Ashinum



NII-CHAN familiar title for one's older brother

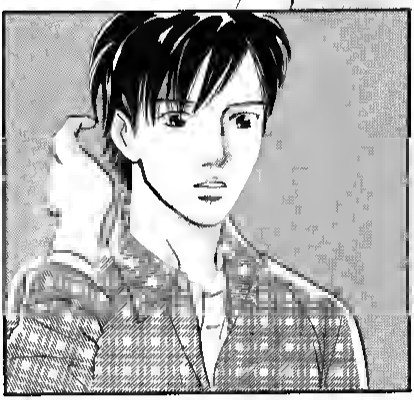
I'm no good at this.
SOB SOB
...BECAUSE YOU'RE SPECIAL.
YOU CAN CALL ME NII-CHAN.
This should be Hikaru's job.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC CLUB
ANYONE HERE?
IT'S EMPTY...
Plink Plonk
STEP
STEP
Is he in the music classroom?
SEMPAI?
MUSIC CLASSROOM

SO ARE YOU THE SON...
WELL... ABOUT THAT...
OF ACTOR MIZUHO KAZUMITSU?

HEY!
HAVE YOU BEEN SKIPPING SCHOOL?

UH...
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM A MAGAZINE REPORTER



SIT DOWN
COME OVER HERE AND PLAY
UMM, I NEVER MEANT TO KEEP YOU IN THE DARK, BUT...
THE TRUTH IS...
FORGET ABOUT IT...
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL BELIEVES A COOL GUY LIKE YOU...
IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE THE SON OF A FAMOUS ACTOR THAN SOMEONE LIKE ME
BUT YOU'RE CUTE HIKARU
PLUS YOU'RE NOT AS SHALLOW AS ME

SHALLOW?
BUT YOU'RE NOT...
SHA...
clang
SEM

LET'S PICK UP FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF THE OTHER DAY.
SEM .. PAI?
THE OTHER DAY..?
WE WERE DOING WELL UNTIL THE HALFWAY MARK.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE..
...THIS IS CRAZY!
D-DOING WELL?
FROM THE FEEL OF MY LIPS..
...TO THE REST OF MY BODY...
YOU'RE USED TO ME NOW, AREN'T YOU?

B-BUT I'M ONLY USED TO
..BEING STROKED BY YOUR FINGERS, SEMPAI...
WHEN WE MAKE LOVE, HIKARU
..YOU TURN INTO A WHOLE NEW PERSON, DON'T YOU?
YOU'LL GET USED TO MUCH MORE OF ME BEFORE LONG
BUT SEMPAI!
NOW WHAT?!

BUT I...
YOU WANT THIS AS MUCH AS I DO!
YELL OUT LIKE THAT AGAIN AND I'LL HIT YOU!
HEY!
BE QUIET! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KEPT YOUR WHEREABOUTS FROM ME!
YOU DID A FIRST-RATE JOB TOO!
HOLD ON TO THE PIANO FOR SUPPORT.

.....
AAH!
This was the very last thing I imagined we'd do

But there's no going back.
OH!.
I...
How did I get myself in this position?

THEY SAY YOU CAN IDENTIFY A PARENT AND CHILD BY THE SHAPE OF THEIR EARS.
IN MORE THAN 90% OF CASES, A CHILD WILL INHERIT THEIR PARENTS' EARS.
YEAH?
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
STARE
EARS, HUH?
Does he have his father's ears?
Maybe he got his ears from his mother.

Then it doesn't matter too much if their ears don't match... does it?
click
RR
HELLO?
THIS IS THE WEEKLY ENQUIRER
Mizuho Kazumitsu has more than one son out of wedlock.

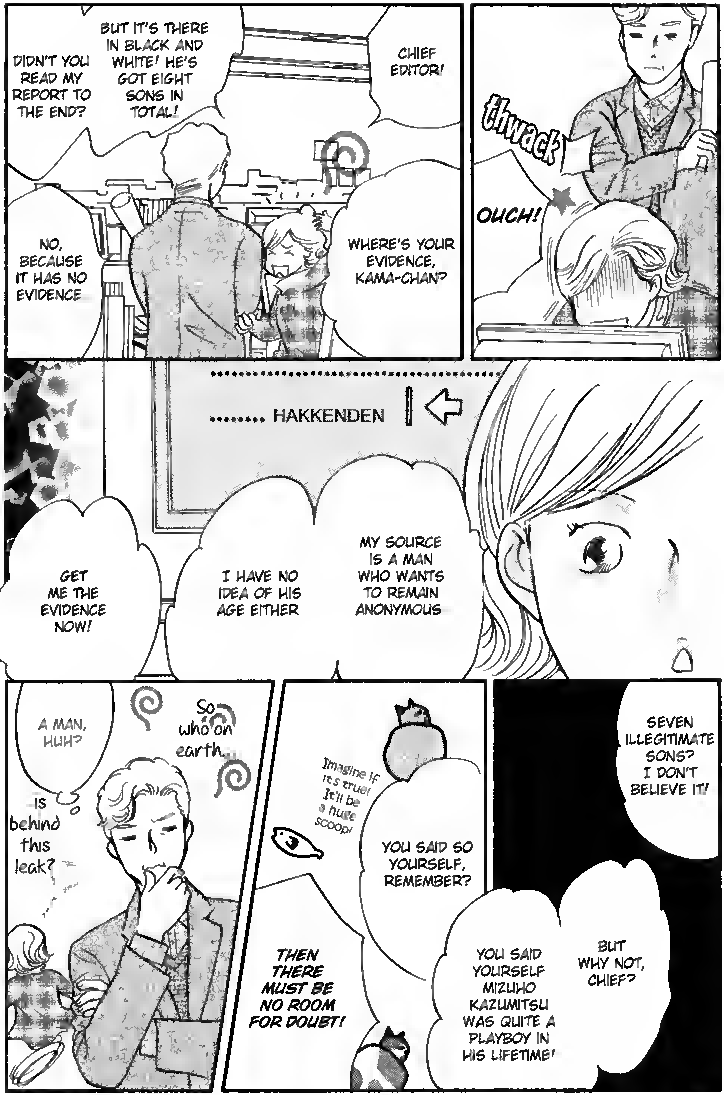
?!
HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE?
Including Okino Shinobu the total number of illegitimate sons comes to seven
Seven?!
Seven of them!
I've got information I'm willing to sell for the right price. Are you interested?
contact.10
END

NANAHIKARI

ななひかり

contact.11

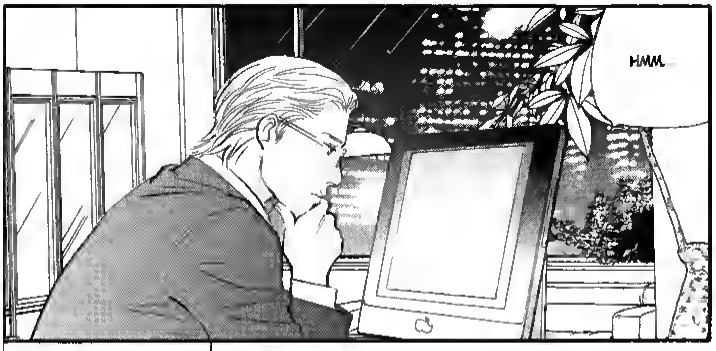
HAKKENDEN: reference to the epic Edo period novel written by Kyokutei Bakin about eight brothers scattered across Japan who share a demonically possessed dog as their father


CHIEF EDITOR!
BUT IT'S THERE IN BLACK AND WHITE! HE'S GOT EIGHT SONS IN TOTAL!
DIDN'T YOU READ MY REPORT TO THE END?
WHERE'S YOUR EVIDENCE, KAMA-CHAN?
NO, BECAUSE IT HAS NO EVIDENCE
thwack
OUCH!
HAKKENDEN
MY SOURCE IS A MAN WHO WANTS TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS
I HAVE NO IDEA OF HIS AGE EITHER
GET ME THE EVIDENCE NOW!
SEVEN ILLEGITIMATE SONS? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
BUT WHY NOT, CHIEF?
YOU SAID YOURSELF MIZUHO KAZUMITSU WAS QUITE A PLAYBOY IN HIS LIFETIME!
YOU SAID SO YOURSELF, REMEMBER?
Imagine if it's true! It'll be a huge scoop!
THEN THERE MUST BE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT!
So who on earth...
A MAN, HUH?
IS behind this leak?

ピンポーン
ding dong
HIKARU!
WHAT'S WRONG?
HIKARU?
MM? OH!
SORRY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL?

IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE YOURSELF
WHY NOT?
YOU DON'T LOOK FINE TO ME.
I'M FINE.
I can't tell him...
IT'S A SECRET.
NOTHING
WHAT'S WITH THAT WEIRD SMIRK? I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
IT'S NOT NOTHING! WHAT HAPPENED?

...that I was raped.
Was it rape?
WHERE'S SHINOBU?
HE'S GONE TO SLEEP.
BY THE WAY,
YOU KNOW THOSE LEGAL PAPERS YOU'VE GOT...
Maybe it wasn't.
Even so...
It could've been a lot worse...
HIKARU!
カチッ
CLICK



If he does intend to stake a claim to Mizuho's estate...

...that's all well and good.

Kunikake Yuuma here
Hikaru collapsed and blacked out. I think he's asleep now. Just thought you'd want to know.
By the way, Shinobu was initially upset but he's starting to come around
That's all for now
Hikaru-kun?
He collapsed?
Thanks for letting me know, Yuuma-kun. You're welcome to use this number to message me whenever you like. I'll come by tomorrow morning to see you.
Shimogura

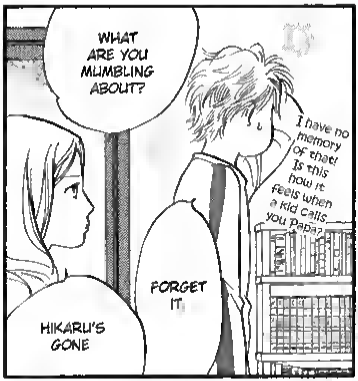
HIKARU
FORGIVE ME FOR DOING THIS
BOUNCE
GOT IT.

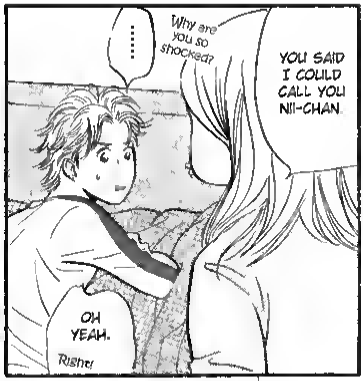
Then what about the rest of them?
So he didn't turn out to be Mizuho Kazumitsu's son...
UGH...
OH NO!
HE'S GOT A FEVER!
UH...

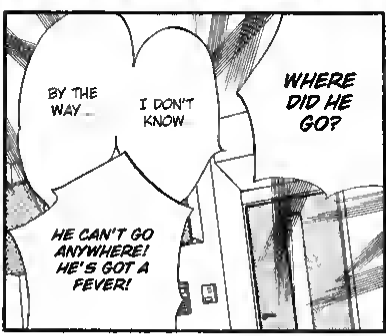
Didn't he love you more than anyone, Mama?
YOU'RE CUTE, HIKARU!
Sempai...
HE'S DEAD, HE'S DEAD!
GOOD RIDDANCE!
HE HAD IT COMING!
DO YOU KNOW THE HEARTACHE HE PUT ME THROUGH?
But Mama...
Father seemed sad to leave us!
LET'S PICK UP FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF...

MM...
jolt

.....
Nii-chan?
NII-CHAN?
NII-CHAN!
WHAT'S GOING ON, YUUMA?!
Chika's too old to call me Nii-chan...


WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?
I have no memory of that! Is this how it feels when a kid calls you Papa?
FORGET IT.
HIKARU'S GONE


Why are you so shocked?
YOU SAID I COULD CALL YOU NII-CHAN.
OH YEAH.
Right


BY THE WAY...
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE DID HE GO?
HE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE! HE'S GOT A FEVER!

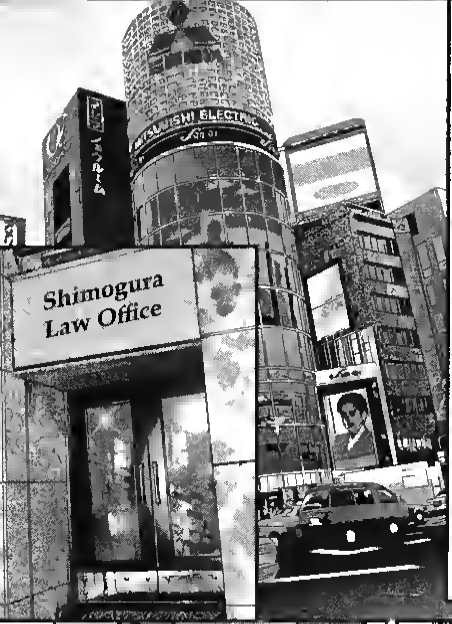
HUH?

WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE PAPERS?
DO THEY HAVE DETAILS ON OUR OTHER HALF-BROTHERS?
HOW THE HELL COULD HE GO OUT WITHOUT WEARING A COAT?!
HUH?
NOW WHAT?
ピーンポーン
ding dong
GOOD MORNING
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M ATTORNEY SHIMOGURA

YOU MORON.
THE REPORTERS MIGHT SEE YOU.
BUT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, SEMPAI.
WERE YOU?
THEY'VE BEEN BUZZING AROUND LIKE FLIES
HEY, I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
ME?
I'M NOT UPSET ABOUT LAST NIGHT.
AFTER ALL,
I NEVER STOP YOU WHEN YOU TOUCH ME, DO I?
NANA-MURA

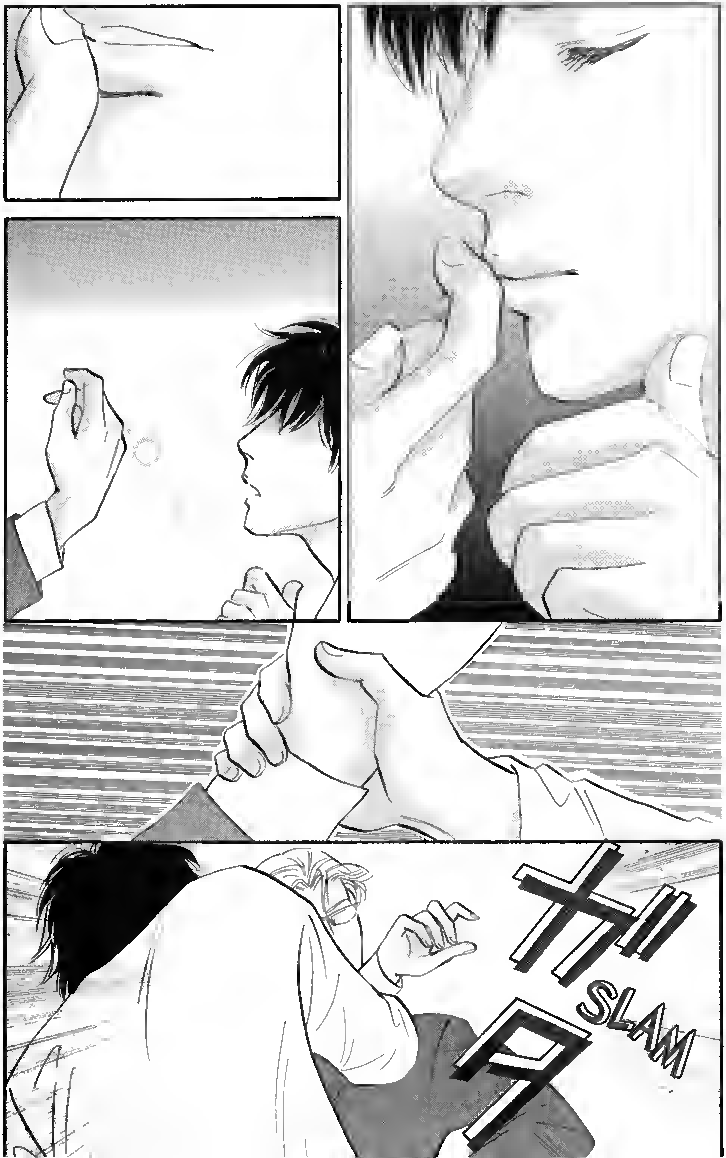
BUT SOMEHOW... I DIDN'T REALLY GET THE HANG OF IT...
I FELT AS IF... I WAS BEING CRUSHED.
DON'T LOOK SO GRIM, SEMPAI.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. DON'T WORRY. YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL BAD FOR BEING HONEST.
DON'T PRETEND...
IT'S NO BIG DEAL TO YOU
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER...
...UNTIL WE'RE BOTH OLD MEN
BECAUSE I CARE FOR YOU, NANAMURA
THEN I SIMPLY WON'T...
...LAY A HAND ON YOU FROM NOW ON...
KEEP IN TOUCH

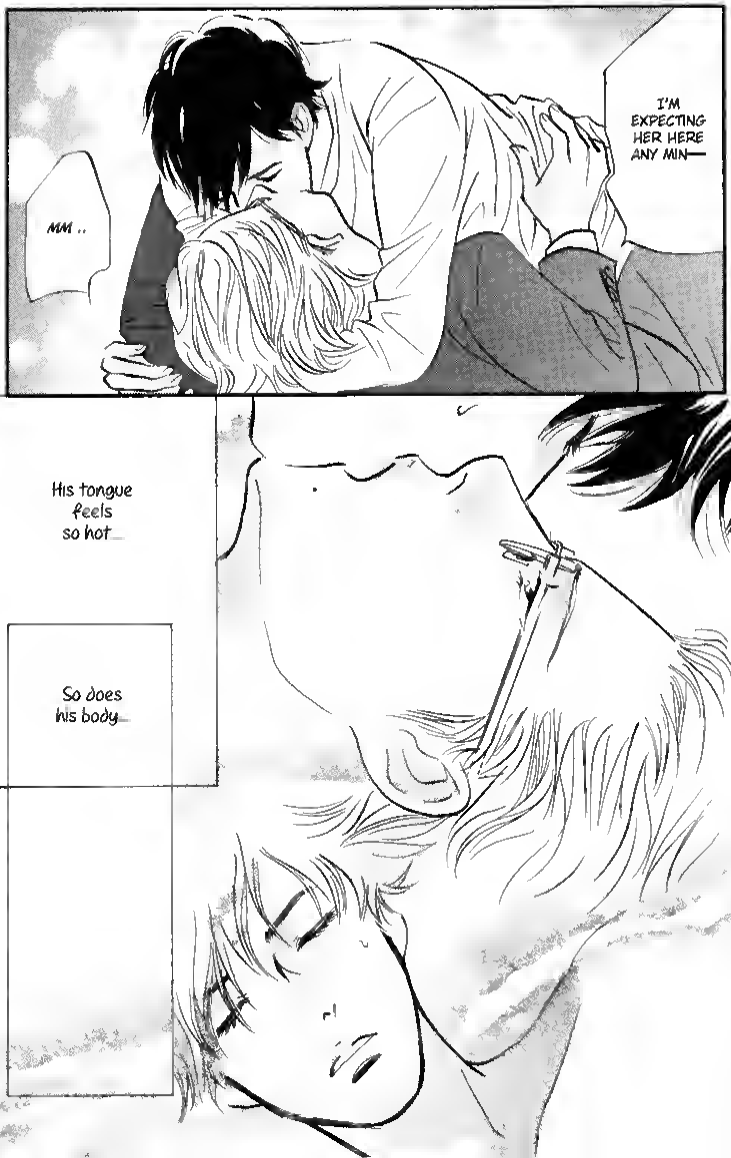

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
Shimogura
Law Office

I'VE JUST BEEN TO THE APARTMENT TO SEE YUUMA-KUN AND SHINOBU-KUN.
HIKARU-KUN?
I WENT BECAUSE YUUMA-KUN SENT ME A MESSAGE ABOUT YOU.
EH? YOU DID?
HE SAID YOU COLLAPSED AND BLACKED OUT.
WHAT HAPPENED?
UH HUH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU

MEETING ROOM
BUT HAVING SAID THAT...
...YUUMA-KUN AND SHINOBU-KUN AS GENUINE ILLEGITIMATE SONS OF YOUR FATHER. BE PROACTIVE IN NEGOTIATING THE DIVISION OF THE ESTATE WITH THEM.
IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULD REGARD...
...IF YOU DO FIND THE RESPONSIBILITY TOO MUCH TO HANDLE ON YOUR OWN, LET ME KNOW AND I'LL ASSIST YOU.
HMPH.


SLAM

CRASH!!
MEETING ROOM
NO ONE WILL COME IN HERE,
RIGHT?
THAT SECRETARY WITH THE BIG BOOBS WON'T COME IN HERE, RIGHT?


I'M EXPECTING HER HERE ANY MIN—
MM ..
His tongue feels so hot...
So does his body...

Ring Ring
Ring Ring
HANG ON...
HELLO, SHIMOGURA LAW OFFICE
UH...
OH YES! YOU... HUH?

My secretary called in sick...
click
OH
UNDER-STOOD IT DOES SOUND SERIOUS
He had me semi-undressed before I knew it
It definitely saves us time

AM I HURTING YOU?
SHUDDER
stride
WHY DON'T WE DO THIS SOME OTHER TIME?
NO..
IT FEELS SO GOOD.. I NEED IT NOW
This isn't the time or place for this

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU
JUST RELAX AND COME
AH... AHH! DON'T...
I like it better when he doesn't fight me
NO, DON'T!
NO!
AH!
AAH!

YOU BETTER GET OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

BECAUSE IN ANOTHER MINUTE...
...I'LL BE AROUSED ALL OVER AGAIN
WHY SHOULD I?
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU
IF I SAY IT'S NOTHING, I'D BE LYING TO YOU...
SO DON'T ASK ME THAT
WELL...

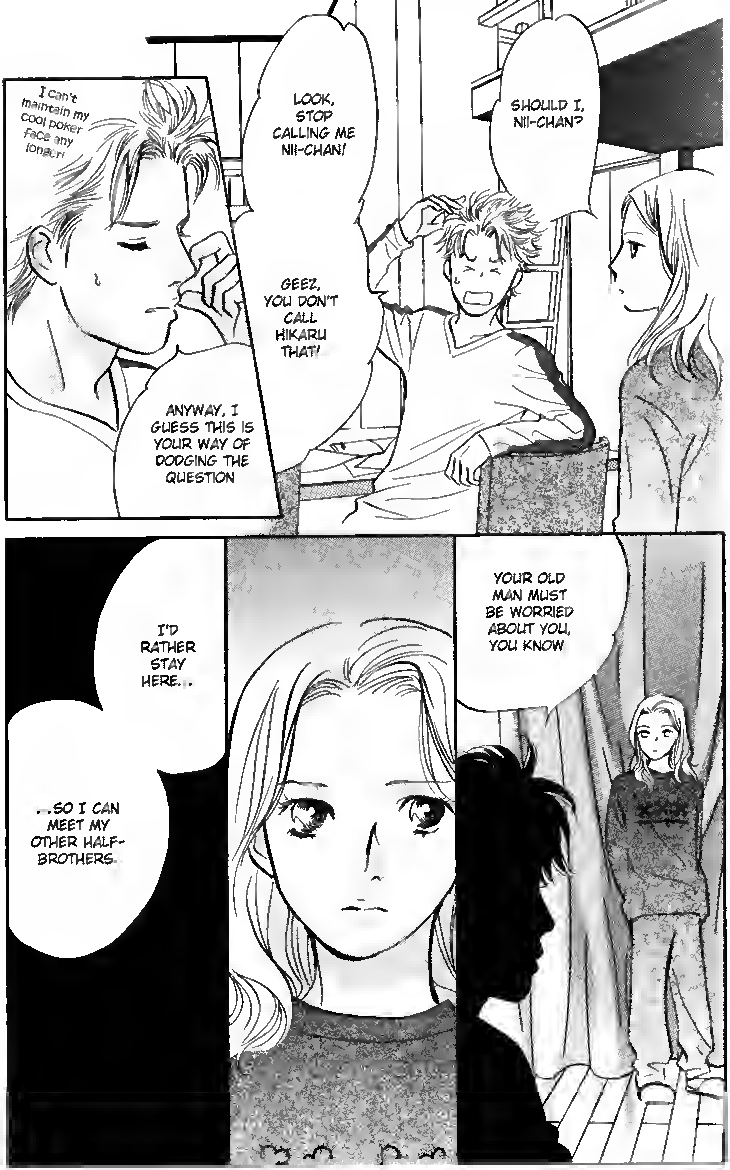
SO YOU FEEL THE NEED TO KEEP IT SECRET, HMM?
ALTHOUGH I FIND SUCH BEHAVIOR EXCUSABLE AT YOUR AGE, IT DOES SET A BAD PRECEDENT FOR ADULTHOOD
PERHAPS WE SHOULD SET SOME BOUNDARIES UNTIL YOU FEEL ABLE TO REVEAL YOUR SECRET.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
WHAT'S WRONG?

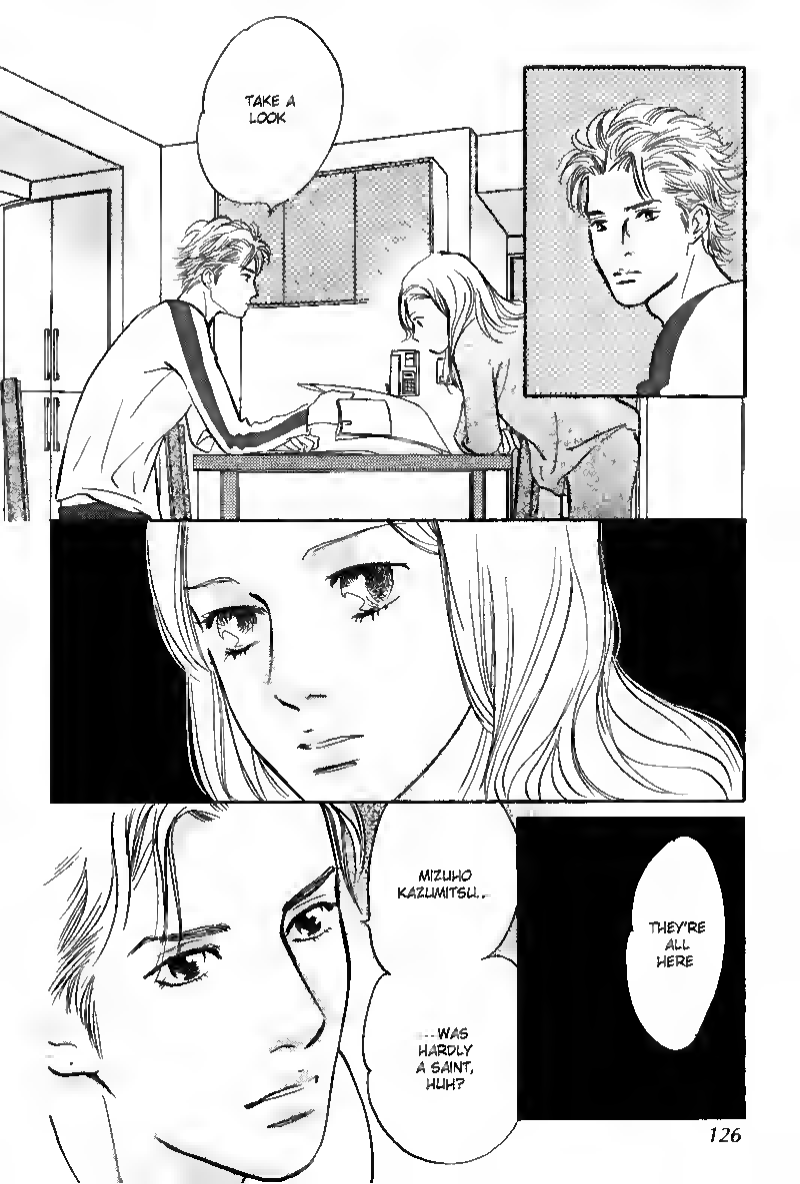
I...
I'M NOT NORMALLY THE TYPE TO KEEP SECRETS...
BUT LATELY I...
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE?
In love?!

I...
I'M GOING BACK TO THE APART-MENT!
Who is it?!
How dare you fall in love with someone else!
I know you were personally interested in me Hikaru-kun!

huff
huff
huff
What are you trying to do to me?
This is scary!
Ashinuma-sempai?!
Could I be in love with..

I don't know how I can face either of them from now on!
What should I do?!
I didn't enjoy it one bit!
But what about...
...the way he made me feel last night?
HIKARU...
...HASN'T COME BACK YET, HUH?
I WONDER WHERE HE IS
YOUR PHONE'S BEEN RINGING NON-STOP FOR A WHILE, YOU KNOW.
NEVER MIND THAT, SHINOBU
ARE YOU GOING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR OLD MAN SOON?


I can't maintain my cool poker face any longer!
ANYWAY, I GUESS THIS IS YOUR WAY OF DODGING THE QUESTION
GEEZ, YOU DON'T CALL HIKARU THAT!
LOOK, STOP CALLING ME NII-CHAN!
SHOULD I, NII-CHAN?
...SO I CAN MEET MY OTHER HALF-BROTHERS.
I'D RATHER STAY HERE...
YOUR OLD MAN MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW


TAKE A LOOK
THEY'RE ALL HERE
MIZUHO KAZUMITSU...
...WAS HARDLY A SAINT, HUH?

I NOTICED THAT HIKARU AND I...
...AND THESE THREE BOYS HERE ARE NEARLY THE SAME AGE, UNLIKE YOU, SHINOBU.
WHEN YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HOW MUCH OLDER CHEF SUETSUGU IS COMPARED TO US...
IT SEEMS FAR-FETCHED FOR MIZUHO KAZUMITSU TO FATHER THESE THREE BOYS IN SUCH A SHORT TIMEFRAME.
SO YOU THINK HE'S NOT THEIR FATHER?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT THE FACT IS THEY'VE BEEN LEGALLY RECOGNIZED AS HIS SONS.
.....

PERHAPS...
...THESE THREE BOYS PLUS HIKARU AND I NEED DNA TESTS TO CONFIRM OUR PATERNITY
HIKARU TOO?
IF HE NEEDS TO BE TESTED, THEN I'M GETTING TESTED AS WELL!
contact.11
END

NANAHIKARI
ななひかり
contact.12

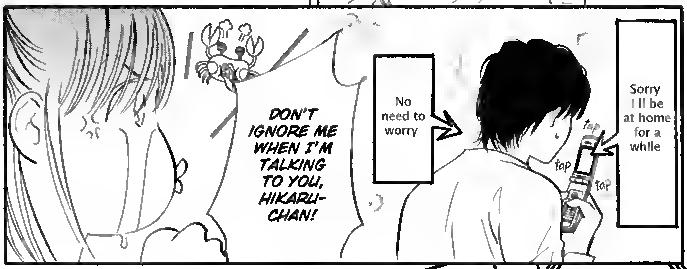
I've been sent on an assignment with files on eight individuals
each of them raised by different mothers.
each of them legally recognized sons of my father...
...I would've continued living in blissful ignorance...
If I had never learned of their existence.

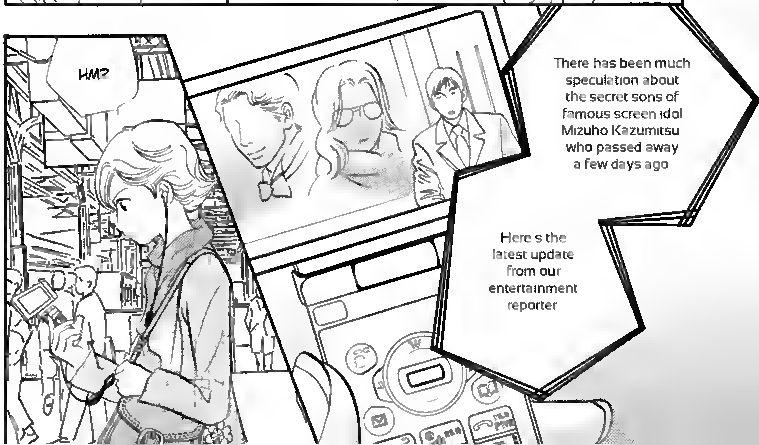
...and I guess my day-to-day life wouldn't have changed one bit
I'M SO HUNGRY...
I NEED FOOD
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN RETURN TO THE APARTMENT NOW...
OR GO BACK TO SCHOOL
I can't go there!
YOO HOO HIKARU-CHAN!
ARE YOU AT HOME?
JOLT
Nazuna ?!

BUT I'M MEANT TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
UH HUH
YOU DIDN'T MESSAGE ME ONCE!
SHEESH! I'VE BEEN SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU!
UH HUH
slurp slurp
KACAO
...EVEN IF YOU REVEAL YOU'RE AN ALIEN FROM OUTER SPACE!
BUT MY LOVE FOR YOU WILL NEVER CHANGE...
Eat up, all right?
YOU DO CARE FOR ME TOO, DON'T YOU, HIKARU-CHAN?

Why didn't he answer me right away?!
recoil
EH? WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
UH HUH
Did he pause to think?
HAVE YOU SOMEHOW...
GULP
...CHANGED, HIKARU-CHAN?
You're more pretty than before
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
NAZUNA?

It's Yuuma!
Where are you Hikaru? I'm worried about you Message me
OH!


DON'T IGNORE ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU, HIKARU-CHAN!
No need to worry
Sorry I'll be at home for a while
tap
tap
tap


HM?
There has been much speculation about the secret sons of famous screen idol Mizuho Kazumitsu who passed away a few days ago
Here's the latest update from our entertainment reporter

!
It can't be...
Since Okino Shinobu was outed as the lovechild of Mizuho Kazumitsu he has gone into hiding his whereabouts unknown
However there has been a flurry of new reports
...about the identity of the forgotten son born to Mizuho's wife during his brief marriage,
Nanamura Hikaru-kun age 17
He's a handsome teenage heart-throb!
They found him!
His mother is the former pianist Ono Takako-san
He's currently a student at a metropolitan high school
Hikaru-kun himself has been playing the piano since the age of three

Please stay behind the white line
STAND STILL. DON'T MOVE.
The train is arriving on track number one
ARCH
THAT'S ME
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BUY SOME INFORMATION, RIGHT?
...THE PERSON WHO RANG ME?
ARE YOU
YEAH, THAT WAS ME
HUH?
SO YOU WERE THE SOURCE BEHIND THAT NEWS REPORT?
YOU SAW HOW ONE OF MY LEAKS JUST BECAME BIG NEWS, RIGHT?
AS LONG AS IT'S GENUINE
HAVE YOU GOT THE EVIDENCE TO BACK UP YOUR CLAIMS?

IF YOU CAN'T PAY MY PRICE, NO PROBLEM.
I'LL SIMPLY LEAK TIDBIT BY TIDBIT SOMEWHERE ELSE
What the...?!
REALLY?
BUT I HAPPEN TO HAVE MY OWN INFORMATION SOURCES ALREADY.
Hehe
I'VE GOT ALL THE DIRT ON MIZUHO
WHERE DID YOU GO?
HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE!
HUH? IS THAT REALLY IT?!
DON'T GO! CAN'T WE TALK IT OVER?
ding dong
ding dong

CELEBRITY REPORTERS AGAIN?!
OH NO!
chatter
ARE YOU IN THERE, HIKARU-KUN?
NANA-MURA-SAN!
IS ANYONE HOME?
chatter
HIKARU-CHAN!
WHERE ARE YOU? IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU TO GO HOME!
Oh, Nazuna?
It's all right I'm going away now
.....
Hang on, Hikaru-chan!
Going away?
Don't go yet!
I've got a stack of questions to ask you!
IT'S SAFER THIS WAY
UH HUH
Oh! My phone battery's dead!

THANKS SO MUCH FOR HELPING ME OUT OF A TIGHT SPOT
YOU'RE WELCOME
I COULDN'T SILENTLY SIT BY WHILE THEY HOUND YOU LIKE YOU WERE SOME WANTED CRIMINAL

UM..
I SAW THE LIGHTS WERE ON THE OTHER NIGHT.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS BACK AT HOME?
Eh?!
YOUR GIRLFRIEND CAME BY. TO SEE YOU, DIDN'T SHE?

I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO DISTURB YOU.
DON'T WORRY. I KEPT MY DISTANCE.
MY MOTHER'S WITH HER PARENTS...
HOW DID YOU KNOW...
I WAS HOPING TO MEET YOUR MOTHER, SO I DROVE BY THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD
IT WAS BY CHANCE...
IT'S BEST THAT YOU DON'T GO BACK TO THAT APARTMENT.

I DON'T THINK IT'S WISE FOR YOU TO STAY WITH MIZUHO'S OTHER SONS
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE YOU ARE HIS ONE AND ONLY LEGITIMATE SON.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE GROUPED WITH THE OTHERS.
SUETSUGU-SAN...
YOU OUGHT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM
YOU CAN EASILY EXCHANGE TEXT MESSAGES WITH THEM, RIGHT?
.....
BUT I DO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM ALREADY
CALL ME WATARI

DO YOU OWN ANY MANGA?
YEAH, I'VE GOT MANGA.
Heh heh
I KNOW
FIRST OF ALL,
WE'LL GO TO MY PLACE
DID YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH HIKARU?
I'LL LEAVE HIM ALONE.
HE'S NO KID. HE'S OLD ENOUGH TO LOOK AFTER HIMSELF.
BUT HE TOLD US HE WAS BACK HOME, RIGHT?
IF SOMETHING COMES UP, HE'LL LET US KNOW.

MY YOUNGER SISTER
WHO'S CHIKA?
CHIKA WANTS TO SEE ME
I WON'T BE OUT LONG
YULIMA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M COMING TOO!
YULIMA!

Perfectly disguised as a girl
WHO ARE YOU?!
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
I'M OKINO SHINOBU, AGE 13.
WHO'S SHE?
DON'T ASK
HUH?!
WOW! YOU'RE CUTE!
SHEESH, CHIKA! FORGET THAT, WILL YOU?
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
OH RIGHT!
IT'S ABOUT MAMA...

SHE WENT OUT SOME-WHERE TODAY
SHE WOULDN'T TELL ME WHERE
IT'S NOT LIKE HER, IS IT?
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING HOW THAT REPORTER CAUGHT UP WITH ME
REALLY?
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE SOME IDEA NOW
BUT WHAT SHOULD WE TELL DAD?
I'VE SAID NOTHING AT ALL.
MAMA'S KEPT QUIET TOO
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HARD THIS SITUATION MUST BE FOR OUR PARENTS CAN YOU?
SO WE SHOULD KEEP OUT OF IT. LET OUR MOTHER DEAL WITH DAD.

YUUMA!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
LOOK, I'LL GO SEARCH FOR OUR MOTHER
NO, YOU GO TO SCHOOL.
I'M NOT...
...REALLY YOUR SISTER, AM I?
YOU MORON!
I speak the truth!
NII-CHAN?
DON'T CALL ME THAT

BUT YOU'VE GOT THE SAME MOTHER, RIGHT?
THAT MAKES HER...
YOUR HALF-SISTER...
...AT LEAST, DOESN'T IT?
I SWEAR SHE'S BEING AS DOPEY AS YOU...
.....
WHERE ARE WE GOING NEXT?
NOT FAR
I NEED TO CHECK UP SOMETHING.

HIKARU-KUN?
EMPTY
.....
None of them are answering their cellphones.
Why is no one here?
Now that Hikaru-kun has been exposed
he'll become media fodder just like Shinobu-kun
In that case, I might as well.

SUETSUGU-SAN?
IT'S SHIMOGURA HERE
HMM
No
About the issue we discussed this morning
I'll make sure to bring it up the next time I contact him
I SEE.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ANY OF THE BOYS LATELY, HAVE YOU?
Oh Hi
What's up?

Very well I'm counting on you
UNDER-STOOD.
HIKARU,
GO RIGHT AHEAD
DO YOU MIND IF I CHARGE THE BATTERY OF MY CELLPHONE FIRST?
WON'T YOUR GIRLFRIEND BE UPSET
...THAT YOUR PHONE WENT DEAD?
EH?
YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE YOUNG AND IN LOVE
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF FUN WITH HER EACH DAY, RIGHT?
NO MORE THAN USUAL SHE'S ALWAYS MAD AT ME!

In love...
WHAT'S WRONG ?
DO YOU HAVE TO CARE FOR SOMEONE. . .. TO BE IN LOVE WITH THEM?
USUALLY. YEAH

HIKARI-CHAN!
Why won't you talk to me?
SOME-ONE ELSE...
ARE WE TALKING ABOUT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
NO, NOT NAZUNA...
THEN WHY DOESN'T THAT...
...SEEM TO HAPPEN TO ME?
SOMEONE ELSE BESIDES YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
A FRIEND? A PARTNER?
A KID?
YEAH... FOR A KID.
WELL, I GUESS...
...THAT'S NORMAL FOR A KID.
I'M MAKING NO SENSE, AM I?
EH?

IF OUR FATHER WERE AROUND, MAYBE YOU'D FIND IT EASIER TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THIS.
NEVER MIND
IT'S A PHASE WE ALL GO THROUGH IT'S JUST PART OF GROWING UP.
WHAT'S THE FIRST THING THAT SPRINGS TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF HIM?

WELL
NO NEED TO BE POLITE ABOUT IT!
SO FAR I THINK MAYBE HE'S BEEN KINDA CARELESS?
ACTUALLY,
AS THE ONLY SON, SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR ME TO COPE WITH MAMA'S DEMANDS ON MY OWN
I WAS A BIT TIRED OF BEING ALONE
SHE TELLS ME...
I MUST PLAY THE PIANO.
BUT I KNOW THAT WITH THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT THE PIANO, I COULD NEVER BE A BRILLIANT PIANIST LIKE HER.
ALTHOUGH SHE WAS A BIT SHOCKED AT FIRST,
SHE'S NOT SO WORKED UP ABOUT WHAT LEVEL I'M AT ANYMORE

I'D BE SO HAPPY IF YOU COULD BE MY BROTHERS FOR REAL.
I LIKE...
...YUUMA AND SHINOBU AND YOU AS WELL, SUETSUGU-SAN. I LIKE YOU ALL.
MAYBE I JUST WANTED TO BE FREE FROM THE PRESSURE OF BEING AN ONLY CHILD

MAYBE HAVING YOU AROUND...
...WOULD'VE HELPED TO TAKE SOME OF THE WEIGHT OFF MY SHOULDERS
I WISH..
...YOU HAD BEEN WITH ME SOONER.
BUT IT'S ALL WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST...
YEAH...
...AND THE TOUGH TIMES ARE REALLY OVER FOR ME AT LAST

I WON'T TAKE YOU BACK TO THAT ATTORNEY'S PLACE.
YOU MUSTN'T GO NEAR THAT MAN.
YOU HEAR ME, HIKARU?

Why not?!

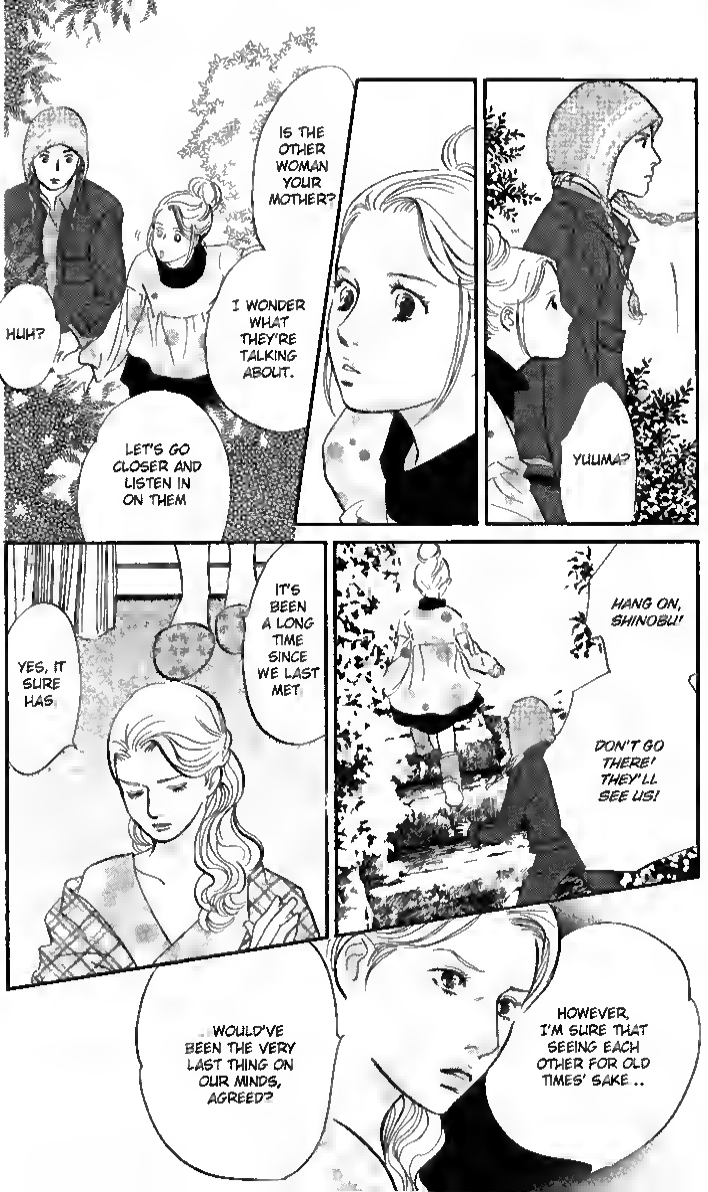
I'm not accustomed to making the first move.
...and reserved by nature.
I'm stoic...
But when the bait is dangled before me
...I leap up to take a greedy bite.
Naturally

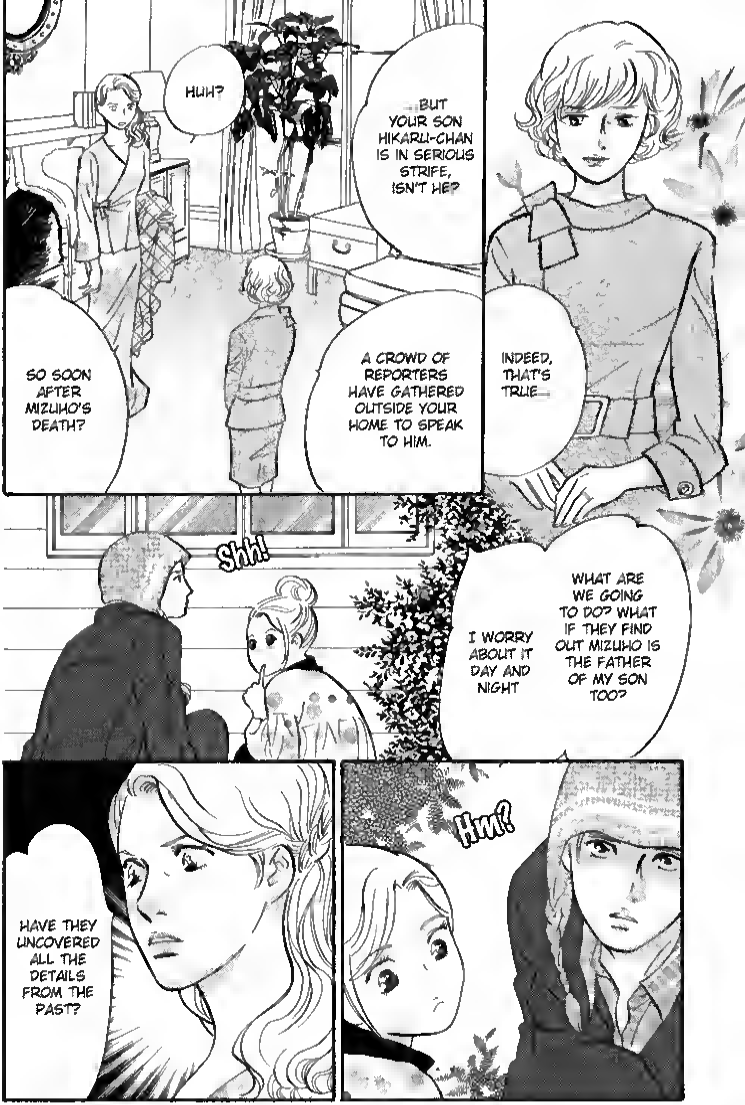
MEN
Anytime
As many times as possible
Anywhere
That's the way I am

SHIMOGURA-SAN?
HIRONE
ABOUT MY SON, HIKARU

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO THE HOUSE WHERE HIKARU'S MOTHER IS STAYING...
HIKARU'S MOTHER?
THE LAST TIME I WENT THERE...
...I SAW YOUR FATHER, SHINOBU.

IT'S TRUE
YOU'RE KIDDING
!
HIKARU'S MOTHER
WHO'S SHE?
OH!


LET'S GO CLOSER AND LISTEN IN ON THEM
HUH?
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
IS THE OTHER WOMAN YOUR MOTHER?
YUUMA?
DON'T GO THERE! THEY'LL SEE US!
HANG ON, SHINOBU!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE LAST MET.
YES, IT SURE HAS.
HOWEVER, I'M SURE THAT SEEING EACH OTHER FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE ..
WOULD'VE BEEN THE VERY LAST THING ON OUR MINDS, AGREED?

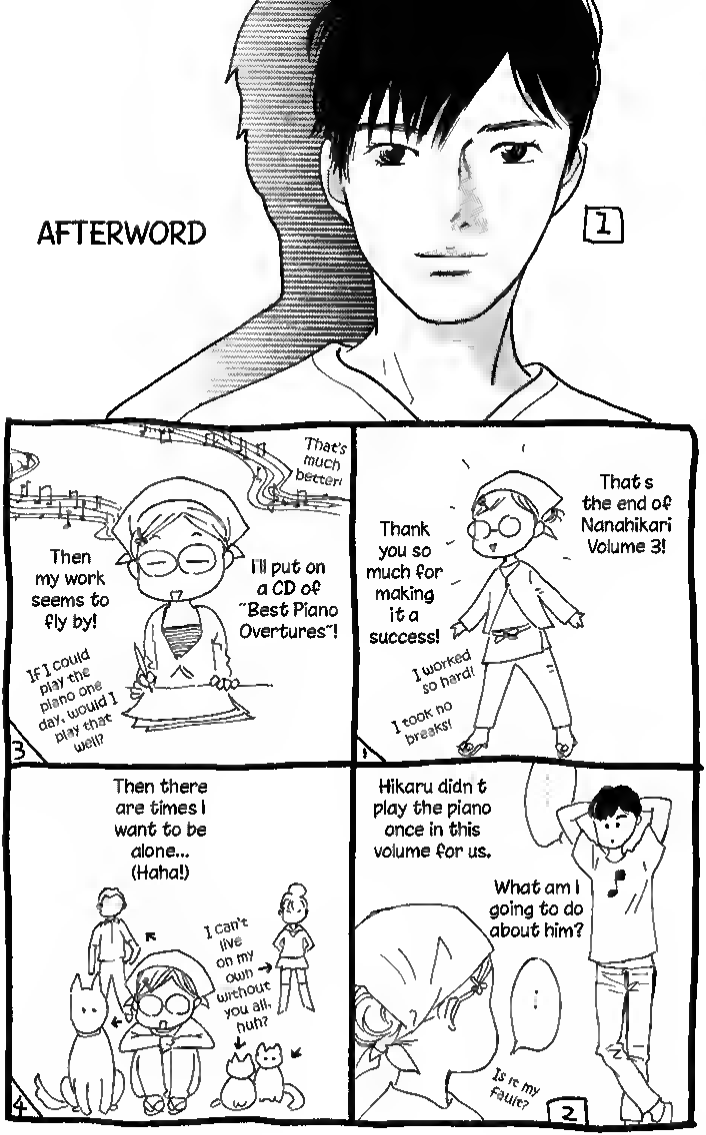

HUH?
BUT YOUR SON HIKARU-CHAN IS IN SERIOUS STRIFE, ISN'T HE?
SO SOON AFTER MIZUHO'S DEATH?
A CROWD OF REPORTERS HAVE GATHERED OUTSIDE YOUR HOME TO SPEAK TO HIM.
INDEED, THAT'S TRUE
Shh!
I WORRY ABOUT IT DAY AND NIGHT
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WHAT IF THEY FIND OUT MIZUHO IS THE FATHER OF MY SON TOO?
HAVE THEY UNCOVERED ALL THE DETAILS FROM THE PAST?
Hm?

SHORTLY AFTER YOU GAVE BIRTH, YOU HAD THE GALL TO TURN UP ON MY DOORSTEP WITH YOUR BABY.
BUT YOU CAME TO ME.
IT WAS WHILE MIZUHO WAS OUT OF THE HOUSE, AND I WAS PREGNANT WITH MY OWN CHILD
BUT...
...THEY NEVER CAME AFTER ME ONCE HE WAS BORN!
I THOUGHT OF YOU AS INCREDIBLY RUDE AND INSENSITIVE
SINCE I COULDN'T SEE ANY OBVIOUS RESEMBLANCE TO MIZUHO IN YOUR SON'S FEATURES.
...I DID COMFORT YOU, DESPITE BEING STUNNED BY YOUR BIZARRE OUTBURST.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT'S THE BEST THING FOR ME TO DO?
KAZUMITSU-SAN MIGHT BE HIS FATHER, BUT I CAN'T REALLY SAY FOR SURE!
BUT...
...YOU WERE SO DISTRESSED AT THE TIME THAT I FELT SORRY FOR YOU.

IT WAS WRONG OF ME...
.....
OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN UNEVENTFUL SINCE THEN, SO I NEVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD COME BACK TO HAUNT US NOW
...BUT I NEVER TOLD ANYONE ELSE EXCEPT YOU, TAKAKO-SAN
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO, TAKAKO-SAN?
IF KAZUMITSU REALLY IS THE FATHER OF MY SON, YUUMA...
...WHAT'S THE BEST THING FOR ME TO DO?
YUUMA...
WEEKLY EN

SHE HAS THE LOOK OF SOMEONE WHO SCREWED UP A MEETING WITH HER SECRET INFORMANT.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH KAMA-CHAN?
THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE!
WHAT A MISTAKE!
WHAT?!
i guess my only hope for fame and fortune...
...is to recruit the three boys in a boy band and make them debut with a smash hit single!
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE CLOUDS, KAMA-CHAN!
This is an office, not a music studio!
contact.12
END

AFTERWORD

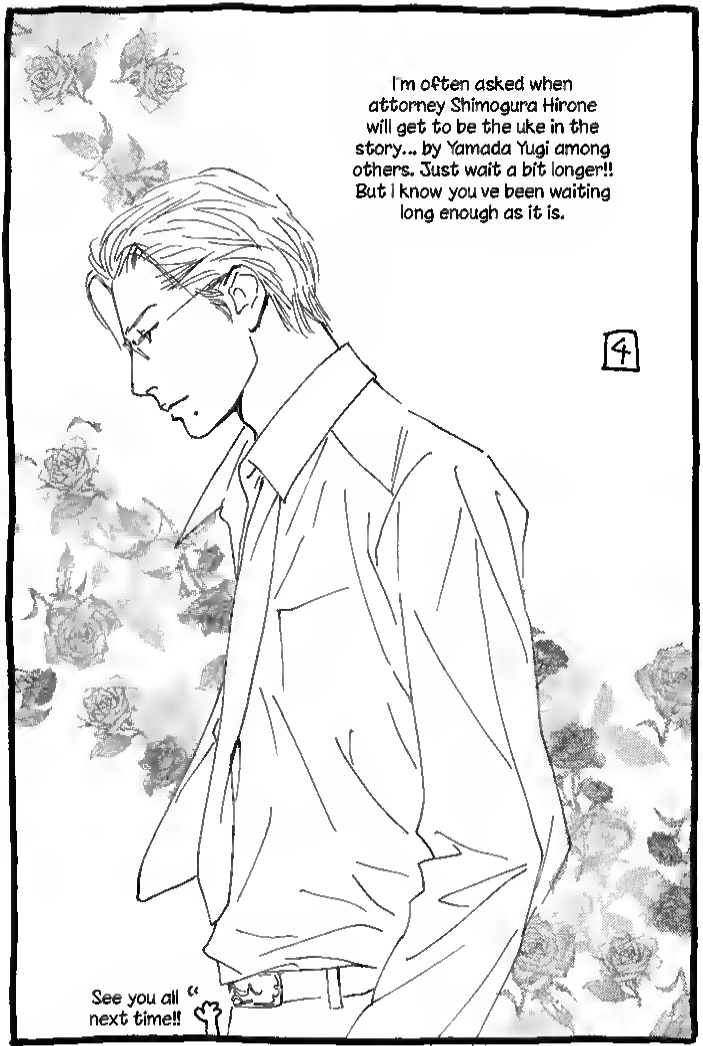

1
That's much better!
Then my work seems to fly by!
I'll put on a CD of "Best Piano Overtures"!
If I could play the piano one day, would I play that well?
3
That's the end of Nanahikari Volume 3!
Thank you so much for making it a success!
I worked so hard!
I took no breaks!
1
Then there are times I want to be alone... (Haha!)
I can't live on my own without you all, huh?
4
Hikaru didn't play the piano once in this volume for us.
What am I going to do about him?
Is it my fault?
2

AFTERWORD

2
The global recession has taken a heavy toll on everyone, hasn't it? Don't lose hope, all you manga fans!
LISTEN, TAKAGUCHI! YOU MUST STAY POSITIVE!
I've been like this for a while.
Please buy new books!
1
My love will never change!
I adore him so much!
Inspired by Jay Chou!
3
I've been to Taiwan more than ten times in the past three years!
YAY! Let's go!
Now I'm in LOVE with Taiwan!
Here's hoping I get to go twenty times!
4
I thought I was really busy this time last year, but I can't even recall what I was doing...
I never go on holiday!
Hello!
Lately I find that being so busy is not much fun at all.
Am I getting senile? (Eek!)
As Takaguchi the mangaka, I'm an early riser!
No free time!
2

JAY CHOU popular Taiwanese pop star/actor Takaguchi-sensei hosts a blog in which she draws Jay Chou fanart and raves about his latest work *http://www.takaguchi.net/jay/*

3
Okino Shinobu-chan, age 13, is a theater actor who specializes in female roles. Yuuma is a shogi player. Watari is a chef... how old is he again? In comparison, Hikaru is an ordinary high school student (but he emits the most pheromones).
It happens all the time, doesn't it?


I'm often asked when attorney Shimogura Hirone will get to be the uke in the story... by Yamada Yugi among others. Just wait a bit longer!! But I know you've been waiting long enough as it is.
4
See you all " next time!!

YAMADA YUGI: a former assistant to Takaguchi Satosumi. she is now a successful BL mangeka in her own right

■この本を読んでのご感想を
編集部までお寄せください。

【あて先】〒105-8055
東京都港区芝大門2-2-1 徳間書店
キャラ編集部気付「ななひかり③」係

CHARA COMICS

ななひかり③

2009年10月1日 初版発行

著者 高口里純

発行人 吉田勝彦
発行所 株式会社徳間書店
〒105-8055 東京都港区芝大門2-2-1

印刷所 大日本印刷株式会社
カバー・口絵 近代美術株式会社
製本 株式会社宮本製本所

装丁 間中幸子
(デザイン協力/COO)

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■初出一覧

[ななひかり③]

contact 9
Chara 12月号 ('08)
contact 10
Chara 2月号 ('09)
contact 11
Chara 4月号 ('09)
contact 12
Chara 6月号 ('09)

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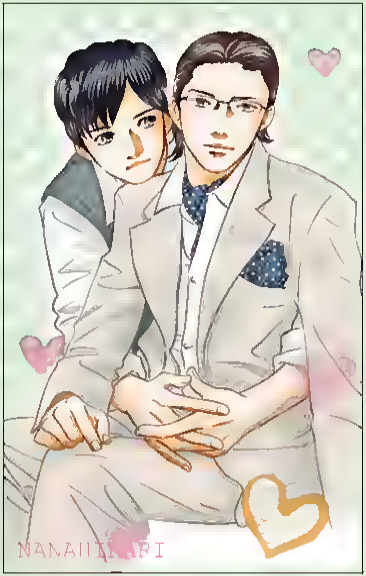
Chara COMICS



NANAHIKARI

A father's light is as good as seven lights

Volume 3 complete
by Takaguchi Satosumi

ISBN 978-4-19 960414-0
Year of publication 2009
Publisher Chara Comics, Tokuma Shoten

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Half baked other stuff- lyrebird

A Half-baked Nakama scanlation

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